File No.: 18-0788

Agenda Date: 10/31/2018
Item No.: 4.2.

COMMITTEE AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Water Conservation and Demand Management

SUBJECT:
Water Supply Master Plan "No Regrets" Programs.

RECOMMENDATION:
This is a discussion item and the Committee may provide comments, however, no action is required.

SUMMARY:
This is a status update for the Water Supply Master Plan "No Regrets" package.

BACKGROUND:

The "No Regrets" package of projects and programs is broadly supported by stakeholders, relatively low cost, and can be implemented independently of other projects and programs that might be included in the Water Supply Master Plan. These projects and programs include:

1) Advanced Metering Infrastructure
2) Leak Repair Incentives
3) Graywater Rebate Program Expansion
4) Model Water Efficiency New Development Ordinance
5) Stormwater Capture

The Board approved beginning planning for implementing the No Regrets package at their September 19, 2017 meeting, and an update on this plan's implementation was presented to the Committee on April 30, 2018.

1) ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI)

Staff is developing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program to encourage the installation of AMI meters, and to maximize their savings potential by pairing the meters with software that will give real-time water data on an accessible online database, leak alerts, and home water use reports.

This program will involve establishing cost sharing agreements with water retailers in Santa

Clara County. To maximize participation and flexibility, the District will offer four options for water retailers, which water retailers may choose to combine. A brief description of the four options currently being considered include:

OPTION 1: New AMI Conversion Combined with Home Water Use Reports

District will rebate 50 percent of the cost of an AMI conversion, up to $70 per conversion. Additionally, District will fund 50 percent of the cost of the software linked to AMI, up to $4.50 per home per year, when combined with home water use reports.

OPTION 2: Existing AMI Combined with Home Water Use Reports

District will rebate $10 per AMI conversion currently in operation annually for seven years. If water retailer had previously received funding from the District for AMI conversion those conversions will not be eligible for additional funding. District will fund 50 percent of the cost of the software linked to AMI, up to $4.50 per home per year, when combined with home water use reports.

OPTION 3: AMI Conversion Only

District will rebate 50 percent of the cost of an AMI conversion, up to $70 per conversion.

OPTION 4: Water Use Reports Only

District will rebate 50 percent of the cost of Home Water Use Reports, up to $4.50 per home per year. No AMI or meter type requirement. The District currently has this program in place.

Staff anticipates implementing this program in November 2018, with cost sharing agreements in place by early 2019.

2) LEAK REPAIR INCENTIVES

Staff anticipate implementing a leak repair incentive program after implementing AMI, in coordination with the water retailers. AMI will provide information on the frequency and magnitude of leaks, as well as customer responses to different levels of leaks. This information will inform how best to design a program by better understanding the severity of the issue and potentially the types of leaks that are occurring. Furthermore, AMI will provide data to help evaluate the effectiveness of leak repair incentives. It could be that a leak repair incentive program would be most effective in disadvantaged communities and/or for very slow leaks that consumers may not be sufficiently motivated to repair on their own.

3) GRAYWATER REBATE PROGRAM EXPANSION

The Board approved the Graywater Installation Program on July 10, 2018. In partnership with the non-profit Ecology Action, a contractor workforce will receive training to install code-compliant graywater systems. Using the trained contractors, up to 100 low-income/underserved Santa Clara County residents will have graywater laundry-to-landscape systems installed by June 30, 2020 or until funding is expended, whichever comes first.

The Graywater Rebate Program application process has been simplified. No pre-inspection is required, and all required documents are listed as a checklist in the online application.

A community-based social marketing campaign is being developed in concert with the Communications Unit to identify key barriers from adopting these systems and parties that may influence their adoption (e.g. external stakeholders such as contractors, other agencies, private vendors, and the public-at-large, etc.). The quantitative and qualitative results from this campaign will help identify ways the District can support graywater use by implementing programs and outreach that directly target identified barriers and influential parties.

Outreach materials and workshops continue to be showcased on valleywater.org and promoted seasonally. An hour-long video of a comprehensive graywater workshop provided by the District in partnership with BAWSCA is nearing completion, which will allow community members to view workshop materials at will.

4) MODEL WATER EFFICIENCY NEW DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

The Model Water Efficiency New Development Ordinance has been drafted and is being shared with key groups. The District has hired a consultant to finalize the Model Ordinance, develop an analysis as to why it's needed (including benefit/costs), and to prepare the Model Ordinance for filing with the Building Standards Commission review.

Staff will incorporate stakeholder input and then work with all the Santa Clara County jurisdictions on adoption. The District's role will be to encourage ordinance adoption and implementation and provide technical assistance.

5) STORMWATER CAPTURE

Stormwater capture can have water quality, water supply, flood management, environmental, and community (e.g., aesthetics, recreation, and education) benefits. Included in the "No Regrets" projects are two different scales of stormwater capture projects - "centralized" and "decentralized":

"Centralized" projects are those that capture water from multiple parcels and/or are municipal projects, including "green streets" projects. There are three centralized stormwater "No Regrets" projects - two municipal stormwater capture basins and stormwater recharge on

agricultural land.

“Decentralized” projects focus primarily of keeping stormwater onsite and/or private citizen projects. The “No Regrets” package includes two decentralized programs -rain barrel/cistern rebates and rain garden rebates.

Staff in the Water Utility Enterprise and Watersheds are participating in the development of the Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP) to develop, prioritize, and plan for “centralized” stormwater projects in the Santa Clara groundwater sub-basin of Santa Clara County. The proposed stormwater projects are located on public lands and capture water from multiple parcels. Through this plan, the Upper Penitencia area has been identified as an area for potential stormwater detention and recharge. In addition, Upper Pentencia has been selected for developing a conceptual project design as part of the SWRP. As part of the SWRP development, hydrologic modeling and a reasonable assurance analysis is being conducted to ensure pollutant load reductions or reduced stormwater impacts will be achieved through the implementation of proposed stormwater projects. A draft of the SWRP has been released to the public and staff for comment. The SWRP is scheduled for completion in December 2018.

In addition to the SWRP, staff are also investigating the potential to use agricultural lands for stormwater recharge. An agricultural land recharge program may help maximize the benefits of existing open space by using the agricultural lands as temporary recharge sites during the wet winter months. An example of this process is in the Central Valley where some almond growers allow their fields to flood during the winter to recharge the aquifer. The planned flooding for groundwater recharge is referred to as flood-managed aquifer recharge (Flood-MAR) and different methods are currently being piloted in the Central Valley and in the lower Pajaro River watershed. Staff are monitoring the pilot projects to determine impacts and benefits to crops, water quality, and water supply. As noted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), “complex technical, legal, and institutional barriers and challenges affect the planning and implementation of Flood-MAR projects” including water rights, permitting, and environmental considerations. However, recognizing the broad potential benefits of Flood-MAR, DWR is leading the statewide efforts to evaluate these issued with stakeholders with the goal of expanding Flood-MAR on agricultural lands and working with landscapes throughout California. Staff are engaging in these statewide efforts. Locally, staff are working with the Open Space Authority and Santa Clara County Planning to develop a planning and piloting approach to explore the potential implementation of agricultural land recharge in Santa Clara County.

The District proposes using rebates to encourage water customers to participate in the decentralized stormwater capture programs (Stormwater Capture Rebates). Details of the Stormwater Capture Rebates, for collecting roof water for onsite reuse, are being finalized and are scheduled to be launched by January 1, 2019. Stormwater Capture Rebates, which will be managed within the Landscape Rebate Program, include rain barrels ($35 per unit), cisterns ($0.50 per gallon of storage for both above and underground units), and rain gardens ($1.00 per square foot). We will be working with Communications to advertise the program and will explore partnerships with other water retailers or cities that either have their own programs

currently or may be interested in cost sharing

ATTACHMENTS:
None.

UNCLASSIFIED MANAGER:
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